

DANGEROUS BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS ON UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to warn of a dangerous bipartisan consensus that is walking us into war with Russia.

In the days following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, Senator ROB PORTMAN said: "I haven't seen this kind of unity since 9/11." It is a nice statement, but what does it really mean?

Unity always seems to come before the worst decisions we make. Our drive to unity often overruns our reason and discernment. The post-9/11 consensus gave us the Iraq war, the PATRIOT Act.

The COVID lockdowns and mandates came from unity bundled by fear. Defund the police took off because dissent wasn't allowed. You were shouted down as a racist, just as now questioning our actions in Ukraine makes you a traitor.

Do we have amnesia in this House? Is memory loss a consequence of the gerontocracy of Congress? Just a year ago, we lost a war against goat herders waving rifles. Now, we are rushing to fight a nation that possesses 6,000 nuclear warheads.

Representatives now recklessly assert that we are at war. Congressman MOULTON said last week: "We are not just at war to support the Ukrainians. We are fundamentally at war, although somewhat through a proxy, with Russia."

The clandestine services are supposed to be the quiet professionals. Seems now they can't stop bragging to news outlets about how America helped Ukraine assassinate Russian generals and sink Russia's flagship.

How exactly is this supposed to end? It is as if the administration is probing Putin's nuclear red line.

A game of chicken between nuclear powers is insane, and this from Joe Biden, who campaigned to be America's calming sedative. From Russia, I worry about nuclear weapons, not broken tanks.

Last night, this House approved \$40 billion for Ukraine as American families go without baby formula. To put that in context, Biden's budget calls for \$15.3 billion for Customs and Border Protection, so apparently, Ukraine is more than twice as important as our homeland.

Two weeks ago, we voted on the Ukraine lend-lease act. I was 1 of just 10 Representatives to vote "no," and here was the response from MSNBC: "GOP's 'Putin wing' balks at supplying weapons to Ukraine."

So, you are a supporter of Putin if you think it is a bad idea to give the White House blanket permission to send "any weapon, weapons system, munition, aircraft, vessel, boat, or other implement of war" to Ukraine while surrendering our rights to repayment.

We are sending so many weapons to Ukraine that we are depleting our own stockpiles, and we aren't just sending bullets and rifles. Now, we are sending howitzers that can fire up to 15 miles. This means weapons we supply and train Ukrainians to use could potentially strike Russian territory.

These weapons aren't just ending up in the hands of the Ukrainian military, either. One official said weapons drop "into a big black hole."

Many of these are ending up in the hands of the Azov Battalion. Forty House Democrats called them a neo-Nazi foreign terrorist organization just 3 years ago. Now that they are killing Russians, are these avowed ethnonationalists apparently not so bad?

Democrats go on a daily snipe hunt for white supremacy here in America, yet they are fine giving rockets to actual white supremacists in Ukraine.

Taking the position that we arm anyone to the teeth who will shoot at Russians has actually not always worked for America. It is Javelins to neo-Nazis today; Stinger missiles to the mujahideen in Afghanistan yesterday.

In Syria—another conflict that Washington had consensus on—we supplied jihadist terrorists in their fight against Assad. Assad, like Putin, is an evil man, but does that mean the American taxpayer must arm his enemies without any further inquiry? I don't think so, and I would imagine most Americans don't think so. But that is why we never have real debate on these issues.

The swamp would rather talk about saving democracy than our actual dangerous reality. If we are at war, like Congressman MOULTON says, then why not vote on an Authorization for Use of Military Force, or are we just going to operate in Ukraine like we have in Yemen and throughout the world? Forever, undeclared wars.

I suspect many in this body won't want a vote or a debate because regime change in Russia is their actual objective, not defending Ukraine. To achieve this goal, they are willing to send billions to Kyiv that will line the pockets of corrupt officials, just like we did in Afghanistan. We are sleepwalking into a war, and the American people are left in the dark.

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ACCESSING ABORTION CARE WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as women across this country face the most devastating blow to our rights and our freedom in decades.

For nearly 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* has been the law of the land, but the Supreme Court is poised to strike down

Roe, and 28 states are ready to strip away everyone's right to access abortion care without government interference.

I grew up Catholic. I have a deep understanding of the moral and personal dilemma that the decision to have an abortion can present. But that decision should be a woman's, not the government's. Five Justices should not be able to overrule our will, our rights, and our healthcare decisions.

The House passed legislation to protect everyone's access to abortion care, and the Senate must do the same. In 1990, in fact, Nevadans came together and voted by a 2-to-1 margin to protect a woman's right to choose.

But Washington Republicans don't care. If they take the majority, they will ban abortion nationwide and overrule our State's law. They are out of touch, out of line, and out to take control of women.

This hyperpartisan Supreme Court won't stop at clawing back rights from women. Our Nation's highest court is opening the doors to rip apart individual rights and liberties across the board. Marriage equality, privacy rights, access to contraception, and more, it is all on the line. These are the stakes, and that is why we cannot back down.

About 70 percent of the American public supports a woman's right to access abortion care, and we must make our voices heard. We must call out the partisan extremists on the right who are hiding in the wake of this immensely unpopular decision.

The past week in the news has been absolutely devastating, but this is a fight worth fighting. I am not giving up on this country, I am not giving up on democracy, and I am certainly not giving up on a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

HONORING CHRISTIAN J. KOCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation to designate the post office in Honeoye Falls the CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office.

Christian was an American hero who passed away tragically in January of 2021 during a training mission with the National Guard when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed.

Christian joined the U.S. Army shortly following 9/11 as an infantryman and became a helicopter pilot in 2008. He was a veteran of both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he flew MEDEVAC missions and saved countless lives. In the wake of Hurricane Florence in 2018, Christian and his unit rescued 87 people, along with numerous cats and dogs.

In his civilian life, Christian served as a helicopter pilot for the New York State Police. Shortly before he passed, Christian was honored by the Red Cross